

For Immediate Release

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Herseth Sandlin Announces Emergency Federal Road Relief Funds for Flood Damage

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 2, 2010) – Today, U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation is providing South Dakota with \$1.5 million in quick release emergency funds for the state to repair federal-aid roads damaged by floods earlier this year.

“After my ongoing discussions with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, and my meeting in June with Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez, in which I have explained the severity of the flooding damage to our roads in South Dakota and the impact on so many communities, I’m pleased that emergency transportation funding is being made available for South Dakota’s immediate use to repair roads that are a lifeline for so many of our state’s rural communities,” Rep. Herseth Sandlin said.

On May 13, 2010, the President issued a major disaster declaration for the flooding South Dakota experienced this spring. The declaration includes 37 of South Dakota’s 66 counties.

Since April, Rep. Herseth Sandlin has held nine community meetings across South Dakota to discuss ideas about how South Dakotans can best work together to minimize the impact of flooding on the state’s homes, businesses, and roads. The congresswoman has also met with local, state and federal officials, including Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate and Risk Management Agency Administrator William Murphy to review the flooding damage and discuss potential sources of flood relief resources. The

congresswoman continues to be focused on assisting South Dakotans in responding to the immediate impact of this year's flooding and other disasters, as well as working with state, federal, and local agencies to develop long-term mitigation plans.

The quick-release emergency funds provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be used to reimburse counties for the cost of repairs to federal-aid roads and bridges needed to resume essential traffic flow right after the flooding and prevent further damage. FHWA's emergency relief program provides funds for the repair or reconstruction of roads and bridges damaged by natural disasters or catastrophic events.

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